THE 5 UNIVERSITIES IN THE NORTH EAST...

14,661 JOBS

£724m TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

22,121 JOBS OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

40,195 STUDENTS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE UK

£865m IN OTHER INDUSTRIES IN THE NORTH EAST

1. UNIVERSITIES CREATE JOBS AND HIGH QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

Universities provide business support and help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to grow. For example, the Innovate Tees Valley programme, led by Teesside University, has helped over 275 Teesside businesses access funded support to achieve growth through service and product innovation.

Universities provide the higher level skills to meet the job requirements of the future. For instance, Durham University offers an undergraduate degree in software development for business designed by employers including Accenture, BT, Intel and IBM.

Since 2012–13, graduates from universities in the North East have created 554 new start-ups or social enterprises, supporting over 2,000 full-time jobs in 2015–16 alone. In the same year, universities and their staff created 23 new businesses supporting nearly 400 full-time jobs.

2. UNIVERSITIES INVEST IN THE NORTH EAST

Newcastle University has led the regeneration of the city centre, investing alongside the local council and Legal & General in Science Central, a £350 million urban innovation hub set to create over 4,000 jobs, 500,000 square feet of office space and 450 new homes. Universities in the North East have already contracted for future capital projects worth around £88 million, providing long-term investment in local economic priority sectors such as subsea engineering, health and life sciences, and digital and creative industries as well as supporting the construction industry.

Universities are long-term partners for the North East. Together, the universities in the North East have 309 years of experience working with the region, and are invested in its future.
3. UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT MONEY FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Universities are rooted locally, but they represent their region nationally. They perform 39% of the North East’s research and development, often using funds drawn from outside of the region. They provide the necessary match funding to unlock investment spending for local projects from European Structural and Investment Funds and the UK government’s Local Growth Fund.

Universities are deeply embedded in the North East’s local growth infrastructure that helps the region to prosper, while being nationally and internationally connected. They sit on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) boards and second staff to work with LEPs, work with councils, and provide evidence and analysis to support the development of strategic economic plans.

With further devolution from central government to come, it is becoming increasingly important to have such capacity and expertise locally.

4. UNIVERSITIES REACH AREAS OTHER INSTITUTIONS CAN’T

Universities are working through local consortia such as the North East Collaborative Outreach programme to improve higher education participation in disadvantaged areas and to drive social mobility. Through work such as the University of Sunderland’s award-winning support package for looked-after young people and care leavers, they are central to addressing disparities at local level.

Universities also utilise international connections and expertise to benefit their local areas. Newcastle University Business School, for instance, runs the Herbert Loebl Export Academy with the Department for International Trade and RTC North to offer new local businesses the chance to explore, with expert help, how to go about getting their business export ready.

Finally, universities in the North East have stepped up to help communities hit by the collapse of large local industries. In 2009 Teesside University supported workers affected by the closure of the Corus steel plant in Redcar with free opportunities to retrain and upgrade their skills.

5. UNIVERSITIES ATTRACT SKILLED PEOPLE TO THE AREA

The universities in the North East attract 40,195 students from the rest of the UK, and a further 18,905 international students who spent £256 million in the local economy in 2014–15.

In many cases they are also among the largest employers in the region. For example, Newcastle University and Northumbria University are two of only 70 businesses with over 250 employees in the city of Newcastle, and together provide jobs for over 9,000 people.

Businesses looking for skilled workers or access to research and business support often set up close to universities, or in incubation centres managed by universities. One example is the Business Innovation Facility located at the new campus for Ageing and Vitality developed by Newcastle University and the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which provides space for companies and researchers to network, collaborate and co-locate.

A skilled local population is also vital for attracting inward investment. Automotive parts maker Gestamp Tallent and Hitachi Rail Europe partnered with the University of Sunderland to create UTC South Durham, a university technical college focusing on teaching STEM subjects and advanced manufacturing to up to 600 young people aged 14 to 19.
YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES HELP...

LOCAL BUSINESSES
Universities in the North East work with thousands of – mostly small – businesses. For instance, last year they signed over 21,300 research, consultancy or facility contracts with businesses and charities. Forms of collaboration include co-owned apprenticeships, development of curricula, internships and placements for students, and innovation and business support to help firms grow. All universities in the North East also offer bespoke company training. For example, Teesside University’s Digital City innovation initiative is helping local SMEs place graduate interns in their businesses by providing recruitment support and a 50% contribution towards their salary.

BIG BUSINESSES
Northumbria University and e-skills UK have developed a new industry-accredited information technology management for business (ITMB) degree to meet the demand for IT graduates with excellent business skills, in partnership with over 50 major employers including IBM, Morgan Stanley, the BBC and Unilever.

COMMUNITIES
Since 2009, Durham University has been a key contributor to Durham County Council’s Lumiere, the UK’s largest light festival which in 2015 attracted 200,000 people over four nights, generating nearly £10 million for the local economy.

SCHOOL-LEAVERS
Universities in the North East are planning to provide 150 degree apprenticeship places in 2017–18 (up from 40 in 2015–16), giving students the benefit of industry experience with a leading company and a globally recognised degree.

LOCAL SERVICES
The jobs that the North East’s communities rely on – the teachers, doctors and nurses – are trained at university. Universities in the North East are currently training around 2,650 nurses, 2,765 doctors and dentists and 3,150 teachers.

Universities in the North East are also at the forefront of transforming health and social care for local residents, though initiatives such as the University of Sunderland’s Living Lab which will deliver better-trained nurses, paramedics and pharmacists by preparing them to tackle emergencies in simulated healthcare settings.

Northumbria University is one of many universities in the region that work closely with local schools to raise attainment and aspiration among children and young people. For example, the ThinkPhysics scheme works with children and their teachers and families to increase the uptake of physics and related subjects in schools, and make the learning process inspiring and exciting.

‘Teesside University is one of the leading universities in animation and computer gaming and hosts the annual international Animex conference. The university and Digital City also provide mentoring and support entrepreneurs to accelerate the start-up rate of new companies and to maximize their growth potential.’

TEES VALLEY LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN
HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN THE NORTH EAST

Durham University
Newcastle University
Northumbria University
Teesside University
University of Sunderland

FURTHER INFORMATION

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